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REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending. Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of JP 07-83290 in view of JP 05-586. Applicant respectfully traverses.

JP 07-83290 has been discussed in the file history. JP 05-586 is owned by one of the assignees of the present application. JP 05-586 discloses a silent chain having a steel roller 5 and an elastic roller 6 rotatably mounted in juxtaposition on a bushing 4 at each end of a respective one of the roller links so that the arrangement or relative positioning of the steel roller 5 and the elastic roller 6 is altered at each pitch. With this arrangement of the steel and elastic rollers 5 and 6, the silent chain and the sprocket can engage with each other at random positions, thus preventing unwanted local wear of sprocket teeth. In the manufacture of such silent chain, however, a complicated adjustment is required to arrange the elastic rollers 6 at random in order to achieve the foregoing sprocket-teeth local-wear preventive effect. Thus, the manufacture itself is rendered tedious and time-consuming, which increases the manufacturing cost. Furthermore, due to the random orientation of the elastic rollers relative to the steel rollers, it is difficult to keep the quality of the finished chains constant. This requires additional considerations or measures to guarantee constant chain quality throughout finished chains, at least in the same manufacturing lot.

By contrast, according to the present invention, the same sprocket-teeth, local-wear preventative effect can be attained by arranging the elastic rollers in a zigzag pattern along a unit length of a longitudinal chain portion, and two or more such longitudinal chain portions are connected in series so that the zigzag pattern of the elastic rollers in one of the longitudinal chain portions is opposite in phase to the zigzag pattern of the elastic rollers in the adjacent chain portion. With this arrangement, the roller chains can be manufactured easily and less costly without requiring complicated adjustment for orientation of the elastic rollers. Furthermore, the finished roller chains are substantially constant in quality.

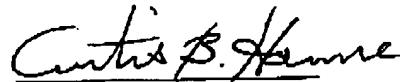
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Thus, the actual claimed limitation "... two or more longitudinal chain portions of uniform lengths, the zigzag pattern of the elastic rollers in one of the longitudinal chain portions being opposite in phase to the zigzag pattern of the elastic rollers in the adjacent chain portion" is not disclosed or pointed to in either reference, but particularly JP 05-586. Furthermore, the difference in teaching between the JP 05-586 reference and claim 1 leads to substantial advantage realized by the common assignee. As a result, claim 1 is nonobvious and patentable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested. Allowance at an early date is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No.: 29,165
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
225 South Sixth Street
Suite 2650
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.455.3800